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REGIMENTS KNOWN BY NICK-NAMES

Not Known By Official Titles.

People of Great Britain Name Their Soldiers in Queer Manner.

Some of the most famous of the British regiments now battling in France and Belgium are far better known throughout Great Britain, and to the world at large, by their nick-names than by their official titles. Their official titles in many instances, indeed, would convey nothing to the average person.

Many people in many countries, for instance, have heard of the Black Watch; comparatively few heard of the Forty-second Highlanders; yet the names are of the same regiment.

This famed body, the oldest of all Highland regiments, gets its nickname from its tartan. When the regiment was first formed it was used chiefly to suppress sedition in Scotland, to enforce the disarming act, and to disperse unauthorized assemblies. A special tartan from which all bright colors were eliminated was designed for regimental use, and this fact, together with the police nature of the duties of early days, led to the name Black Watch. On many fields, in many parts of the world, have the soldiers of the Black Watch upheld the glory of this great regiment.

The Scot Greys, as famous in the annals of cavalry as is the Black Watch in infantry records, began their career as the Royal North British Dragoons. In 1742 the regiment was landed in the Low Countries. On their disembarkation, the Strathgordale, seeing that they were without mounts, ordered his own guards to turn over their grey chargers to the Scotchmen. And the Scot Greys, with gray mounts, they have since been, although they held the official name of the Royal North British Dragoon down to the time of the Crimean war.

"Coldstream Guards."

The Coldstream Guards, who also have won laurels on scores of battlefields, get their name from Coldstream, in Berwickshire. In 1660 Gen. Monk marched to London to aid in securing a free Parliament and the restoration of the Stuarts, bringing with him his own regiment of infantry from Coldstream.

The regimental legend has it that when the troops met Charles at Blackheath the Monk regiment kept some of the disaffected soldiers of other units from mutiny, and the King, on learning whence the regiment had come, addressed them as "My Coldstream Guards." The name stuck.

"Thin Red Line of England."

"The Thin Red Line of England" has long lived in song and story, the name being applied generally to British field forces. It is declared by experts, however, that the name properly belongs to the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, in commemoration of their remarkable repulse of the flower of the Russian cavalry at Balaklava. Volley after volley of rifle fire was poured by the slender line of scarlet coats into the masses of charging Russian horsemen, until finally the attack was abandoned despite the comparatively slight numerical strength of the British.

The "Fighting Fifteenth."

The "Fighting Fifteenth" are the Fifteenth King's Hussars. They won their title in 1749 in Flanders against the French revolutionary troops. They were serving with the Austrians, and in operations near Landrecies they were ordered to rescue the Emperor of Austria, who had been cut off from the main army.

Two squadrons of the Fifteenth, with a few Austrian hussars, the whole body not numbering more than 300 men, found themselves, through a mistake, facing an entire French army corps. They attacked part of the corps so fiercely that the French thought themselves opposed by a great force. The hussars rode through the outposts, charged the artillery, killed 1,200 men, and took three guns. The Emperor was rescued. He later decorated the officers of the regiment.

"The Die Hards."

The "Die Hards" are the Fifty-seventh Foot, the Duke of Cambridge's Own, Middlesex Regiment. At Albuera in 1811 the regiment found itself pressed by a great force. "Die hard, my men, die hard!" was the cry of Col. Inglis to his troops. Backs to a wall, the soldiers did die hard. There were 140 survivors out of 570 who began the fight, the dead including Inglis.

At Inkerman, where the regiment

was almost wiped out, Capt. Stanley raised the cry "Die-Hards, remember Albuera." And the regiment again made good its name.

"The Devil's Own."

The Connaught Rangers were originally called the "Devil's Own" because of their rascality, but their superb fighting in the Peninsula war changed the term from one of reproach to one of honor. At Fuentes d'Onoro and at Badajoz they fought with amazing fury.

The every day goat is responsible for the nickname of the Royal Welch Fusiliers—the "Nanny Goats." A goat is the regimental mascot and is led at the head of the column. On St. David's Day, in the officers' mess, the goat, escorted by drums and fife is marched around the table.

Red Clover.

Red clover has been justly ranked as the principal foundation of a permanent system of agriculture in the northern and eastern parts of the United States, according to the department's Office of Forage Crop Investigations. This is due to its high feeding value, its effect upon the soil, and the ease with which it may be employed in rotations. Under ordinary conditions red clover is a biennial, although special strains are truly perennial. In pastures where it has been kept from seeding, certain plants have been known to live for three or four years.

Uses of Red Clover.

Red clover is an excellent crop for pasture, hay, soiling, and renovating the soil. It can precede or follow almost any other field crop.

Clover makes an excellent pasture for all kinds of live stock. Care, however, must be exercised not to turn sheep or cattle in a clover meadow when they are hungry or when it is wet with rain or dew, since bloating may occur. If but one crop of hay is cut, considerable pasture is furnished during the summer and autumn, but if two crops of hay or one crop of hay and one crop seed are harvested little pasture will result. Clover will furnish some pasture the fall of the year it is sown, although it should be pastured lightly.

Red clover produces satisfactory yields of hay throughout the clover area. Either two crops of hay or one crop of hay and one crop of seed may be produced the same season. Since mammoth clover produces but one crop a season it may be pastured until the first part of June. As soon as the stock is removed the meadow should be clipped so that the plants will make a more even growth. Clover hay is a very nutritious feed, being rich in protein and for this reason makes an excellent forage for growing animals and milk cows.

Red clover makes excellent green feed for milk cows. The average yields of green matter of red clover vary from 6 to 12 tons per acre. The season for soiling may commence about 10 days before the plants come into bloom and continue as long as the plants remain green. Bloating does not occur when clover is fed in this manner, but it must not be wet with dew or rain when cut, nor should it be wilted.

As a soil-improving crop red clover can not be excelled. By proper utilization in rotations it is possible to maintain the supply of nitrogen and humus in the soil. Yields of grain crops have been increased as much as 10 bushels to the acre by turning under clover sod. Red clover is sometimes used as a green manure crop. This is to be recommended only where soils are very low in humus and artificial fertilizers are used exclusively.

Soil Requirement of Red Clover.

Red clover is best adapted to deep, well-drained clay loams and calcareous loams, which are fairly rich in humus. Sandy soils well supplied with humus also produce good crops of clover. Soils poor in lime will rarely produce good crops of clover unless they contain an abundant supply of humus. With the addition of lime, however, most soils considered to be "clover sick" or "acid" can be made to grow clover satisfactorily. As most soils in the clover belt are becoming "acid" it is recommended that all soils be tested for acidity before being planted to clover. The litmus paper test is simple and fairly reliable. Results, however, should be based not on a single test but on a number of tests with soil collected in different parts of the field. Two to four tons of finely ground limestone or one to two tons of caustic lime should be applied to "acid" soils.

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